

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5165

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OR 2 USBERLIN 2233

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, WB, US

SUBJECT: BERLIN PRESS COVERAGE OF STOBBE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

SUMMARY: WITH ONE MINOR EXCEPTION ALL AUGUST 23 WEST BERLIN DAILIES GAVE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES TO GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. EXTENSIVE PHOTO COVERAGE INCREASED IMPACT OF ARTICLES. PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO VISIT BERLIN GIVEN MOST PLAY. PRESIDENT'S REASSURANCE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BERLIN AND HIS STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT STOBBE HAS DIRECT LINE TO WHITE HOUSE IN TIMES OF CRISIS ALSO PROMINENTLY REPORTED. ALMOST ALL AUGUST 24 DAILIES FOLLOWED UP WITH LENGTHY EDITORIALS RECOUNTING IN FAVORABLE VEIN HIGHLIGHTS OF STOBBE'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON. COVERAGE OF MEETING CAPPED THREE SUCCESSIVE DAYS OF WIDESPREAD AND POSITIVELY SLANTED COVERAGE OF STOBBE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. ALMOST ALL WEST BERLIN DAILES LED THEIR AUGUST 23

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EDITIONS WITH FULL ACCOUNTS OF GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. PRESIDENT'S ACCPETANCE OF STOBBE'S INVITATION TO COME TO BERLIN GIVEN HEADLINE TREATMENT. TABLOID BZ, FOR EXAMPLE, BANNERED "CARTER: I'M COMING TO BERLIN" WHILE TAGESSPIEGEL AND MORGENPOST HEADLINED THE SAME NEWS IN SLIGHTLY MORE SUBDUED FASHION. IN ADDITION TO FRONT-PAGE LEAD ARTICLES, MORGENPOST,

DIE WELT AND DER ABEND CARRIED INSIDE FEATURE STORIES
ON STOBBE TRIP.

2. MOST PAPERS STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT GREETED STOBBE
WITH REMARK THAT U.S. POPULACE CONTINUES TO STAND FIRMLY
BEHIND BERLIN AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED THAT IN TIMES OF
DIFFICULTIES STOBBE COULD CALL HIM DIRECTLY IF THE SITUATION SO
REQUIRED. STOBBE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY
TAKEN BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "YOU
CAN BELIEVE HIS (THE PRESIDENT'S) EVERY WORD." STOBBE
ALSO SAID THAT HE FOUND IN THE PRESIDENT A "STRONG AND
DEPENDABLE FRIEND FOR BERLIN."

3. MOST PAPERS REPORTED BOTH ON AUGUST 23 AND IN
EDITORIALS ON AUGUST 24 THAT STOBBE HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT
THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT HAS BROUGHT AND CONTINUES
TO BRING ADVANTAGES TO BERLIN. STOBBE ALSO REPORTEDLY
EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT PROBLEM AREAS CONTINUE TO EXIST,
NOTICEABLY IN THE AREA OF BERLIN-FRG TIES AND ON THE

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SUBJECT: BERLIN PRESS COVERAGE OF STOBBE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

QUESTION OF FRG REPRESENTATION ON WEST BERLIN'S INTERESTS ABROAD. STOBBE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE PRESIDENT THE IMPORTANCE WEST BERLIN ATTACHED TO THE LONDON DECLARATION OF LAST MAY. HE ALSO STRESSED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR BERLINERS THAT THE ALLIES CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THEIR FOUR-POWER RIGHTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY.

4. PROMINENT ATTENTION WAS ACCORDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY BLUMENTHAL WILL COME TO BERLIN AT THE PRESIDENT'S BEHEST TO HAVE A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE BERLIN ECONOMIC SITUATION. SEVERAL ARTICLES UNCLASSIFIED

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REPLAYED IN THIS CONNECTION RUMORS THAT "A MAJOR U.S. AUTO MANUFACTURER" WAS CONSIDERING BUILDING A MAJOR PLANT IN BERLIN, AND THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THIS PROJECT. TAGESSPIEGEL'S BOELKE REPORTED AUGUST 24 THAT THE COMPANY IN QUESTION WAS FORD.

5. ALL NEWSPAPERS FOCUSED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON STOBBE'S VERY EVIDENT SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. IN EDITORIAL AUGUST 24, BOELKE REPORTED STOBBE'S CONTINUED DELIGHT AT THE DETAILED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF BERLIN QUESTIONS WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS EVIDENCED DURING THIS TALKS THERE.

6. THERE WAS MORE THAN JUST A SLIGHT TOUCH OF LOCAL PRIDE AND SATISFACTION IN FRIEDHELM KEMNA'S BYLINED ARTICLE IN DIE WELT THAT STOBBE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT - CARTER, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, AND NSC'S ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI, AN HONOR ACCORDED ONLY THE MOST HIGH-RANKING AND IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE U.S.

7. RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF VISIT EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE. BOTH SFB AND RIAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE RADIO REPORTING, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS WITH GOVERNING MAYOR. TELEVISION COVERAGE OF TRIP EVEN MADE NATIONAL NEWS EVENING OF AUGUST 22.

8. COMMENT: THE EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF SOTBBE'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OUTLINED ABOVE CAPPED THREE STRAIGHT DAYS OF EXTENSIVE AND POSITIVE REPORTING ON THE

TRIP. STOBBE AND HIS PRESS CHIEF SOETJE OBVIOUSLY DID A
GOOD JOB OF FEEDING INFORMATION TO STOBBE'S ACCOMPANYING
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PRESS, BOTH PRIOR TO AND DURING THE FLIGHT TO THE U.S.,
WITH THE RESULT HAT THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WAS
GIVEN A GOOD BUILDUP IN THE BERLIN PRESS PAVING WAY FOR HEAVY
COVERAGE OF THE ACUTAL EVENT. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, THE VISIT
HAS HAD ALL THE POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT
WE COULD HHAVE HOPED FOR. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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